

Welcome!

Volunteer Services completed a successful orientation for new Volunteers, Oct. 12-13, 2015. Interested persons attended a 2-day presentation on the programs offered to court involved youth and adults, met court staff, and listened to a panel of active volunteers.

Thank you to **Sue Schmidt, Bev Saur, and Katy Ramsdell** for your insight on the importance of volunteering with Probate and Family Court, as well as, a personal reference to why you find your involvement so rewarding to your life and the ways you're giving back to your community.

Thank you to **Barb Donaldson**, Senior Probation Officer, **Amanda Flowers**, Probate Register, and **Dr. Cathy Anthofer-Fialon**, Programs Manager, for your kind words and encouragement on the role and importance of volunteers to the work you do each day.

Congratulations to the following on their new role as Probate and Family Court Volunteers!

Jane Becker, Wendy Cuneapen, Victor Dinsmoore, Timothy Donahey, Patricia Drake, Lisa Haworth, Jessi Horness, Karen Mauro-Doren, Heidi McNichols, Susan Miner, Art Nickerson, and Diane Scrivo.

Congratulations!

Volunteer transporters have the role of transporting youth to and from detention facilities, treatment placements, and experiential camps. In order to transport, volunteers have to complete an in-office training and when available, Regional Detention Support Services (RDSS) training. RDSS is the division of DHHS that supports and trains volunteer transporters throughout the state of Michigan, certifying them on how to handle a wide range of circumstances that may arise while transporting youth. A training is provided when needed for volunteers to become certified RDSS transporters.

Probate and Family Court was able to have 10 transporters attend a training at the Grand Traverse Resort on September 29th and 30th. It is with great pride that Volunteer Services now boasts 17 RDSS trained transporters!

Congratulations to: **Victor Dinsmoore, Timothy Donahey, JoEllen Evans, Lori Metcalf, Arthur Nickerson, Diane Scrivo, Henry Tenbrink, Ed and Donna Thoma** (re-fresh training), and **William Vaillancourt.**



Many thanks to volunteer, **Darcy Schlitt**! She has once again used her creative expertise to decorate the bulletin board outside the office. Take a look the next time you're here!

Announcement

The Literacy Council office, formerly located in the Hall of Justice has moved to a new location at the MiWorks! Building on Garfield Ave.

To reach them call: 231-922-6940



Truancy Program

Truancy facilitators will meet for their first session of the school year on November 4th, 2015.

The mission of this program states: "Recognizing that lack of school attendance presents barriers to student success, the "School is Important" program, is to provide information and give support to parents and youth with school attendance issues and remove those barriers to prevent court involvement."

Students in middle and high school and parents of elementary school aged children, along with middle and high school parents, attend this important program. In the past, 86% of the students attending have avoided repeat absences and thus avoided a court record.

Volunteer Services would also like to welcome, David Spiller as the new Truancy Coordinator. David comes to us from Boyne City Public Schools. He is married to his wife Jen, and they have a daughter Illah.

Many thanks to the volunteer facilitators below:

Dave Speirs, Roy Bernier, Mary Jo Zazueta, Kaitlyn Grangood, Don Kuehlhorn, Barb Grewe, Tate Stewart, and Shen Chefalo

Community Service Work Project

Volunteer Services is pleased to announce a new project for youth on probation. The "Sewing Project" will begin during the month of November as an alternative to traditional community service.

The "Sewing Project" is a volunteer led project that will not only teach youth the craft of sewing, but will also result in giving back to the community. The first project will be a pillow case. The pillow cases will be given to area foster care agencies for children removed from home.

Thank you to volunteers, **Laura Scott** and **Karen Mauro-Doren** for all their time and expertise to this meaningful project for the youth and the community.



NOVEMBER

Wes Nelson
Roy Bernier
Marilyn Mayo
Linda Dittmer
Bob Brown
Susan Paul
Kathy Cortez
Laura Shumate
Erica Canfield
Kaitlyn Grangood

DECEMBER

Susan Schmidt
Nancy Reddy
Donna Burnside
Nancy Winogrodzki
Sharon Rosema
Carla Hickman
Mary Meernik
Timothy Donahey
Thad Saur
Maureen Leonard
Laura Alanson
Jane Becker
Tate Stewart
Shen Chefalo
William Vaillancourt
Hilary Hoeflin
Matt Shumate





The school year has gotten off to a great start with Learning Partner's and their students getting back into their routine.

Learning Partners are always in need of more volunteers who would like to dedicate their time, once a week at local elementary schools. If you or someone you know would be interested in learning more about this valuable program, please call Laura at 231-922-4827.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to attend a theatre performance with their students, this winter. Details to follow.

The annual Michigan CASA Conference, will take place November 5-7, 2015, in Muskegon. Look for an overview of topics and information in the next newsletter.



Every year, volunteers are asked to donate to the raffle basket that Grand Traverse County CASA takes to the conference. Raffle tickets for these beautiful baskets are used to offset the cost of speakers and facilitators at the event. Thank you to the following volunteers for their donations to this year's basket: **Peg Gove, Kristen Rivard, Ruth Bay, Katy Ramsdell, Brenda Knaack, Linda Fawcett, Susan Bender, Mary Jo Zazueta, Nancy Giles, and Judy Zrimec.**

There will *not* be a regular monthly meeting for November, due to conference taking place. For our December meeting, I would like to keep with tradition and have a holiday gathering. This meeting will take place at 5:00 (not the usual 4:00) with an informal agenda, location and details to follow.

New Volunteer Opportunity!

Volunteer Services is building a new program that will involve volunteers who are interested in monitoring youth during their community service work. The ***Community Service Work Monitor*** role is a chance for you to volunteer for the Court while *also* volunteering for a local non-profit agency. It's a chance for you to teach a youth on probation the value of giving back to the community.

- Pick from a list of non-profit agencies agreeing to work with youth on probation that has been established by court staff.
- Arrive at the non-profit site on the same day/same time each week, that you've chosen.
- The non-profit agency will provide you and the 2-3 youth you're assigned, to a task.
- Work side by side with the youth, modeling good citizenship and the value of giving back to the community.
- At the end of the shift, you sign each youth's community service time sheet and he/she will take it to their assigned probation officer.
- Commitment of 2-4 hours per week for up to 3 months.

Please contact Lindsey with interest in this program, at 922-4827. Informational meeting to be scheduled, details to follow.



**VOLUNTEERS IN
PREVENTION/PROBATION**

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE

280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684

231-922-4827

Or Current Resident

Learning Partners

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Tuesday, December 1, 2015



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

***No November Mtg. (see pg 3)**

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015

(details to follow)



Volunteer Services Office will be closed on:

Wednesday, November 11, 2015

Thursday, November 26, 2015

Friday, November 27, 2015

Thursday, December 24, 2015

Friday, December 25, 2015

Thursday, December 31, 2015

Friday, January 1, 2016

***All meetings are held at the Volunteer Services office unless
otherwise mentioned.**